

At a regular meeting of the Charlotte County Board of Supervisors held at the Administration Building on January 10, 2022, at 1:30 p.m.

Present: Gary D. Walker, Chairman
Will Garnett, Vice Chairman
Garland H. Hamlett, Jr.
Robert L. Shook, Jr.
Hazel Bowman-Smith
Walter T. Bailey
Tony Reeves

Absent:

Chairman Walker called the meeting to order.

Supervisor Reeves gave the invocation.

Motion was made by Supervisor Hamlett, seconded by Supervisor Bailey, and carried with all other members present and voting yes to approve the agenda as presented.

Motion was made by Supervisor Hamlett, seconded by Supervisor Reeves, and carried with all other members present and voting yes to approve the work session minutes from December 13, 2021, the Board of Supervisor meeting minutes from December 13, 2021, and the Organizational meeting minutes from January 3, 2022.

Committee Reports:

Supervisor Reeves – None

Supervisor Shook – None

Supervisor Hamlett- Supervisor Hamlett stated he attended the Crossroads Services Board meeting, and a candidate was interviewed for the position as Executive Director. Supervisor Hamlett stated they are in the process of preparing a contract and salary offer and hope to have that position filled within 30 days.

Supervisor Garnett-None

Supervisor Smith -None

Supervisor Bailey – None

Chairman Walker – Chairman Walker stated the CRC continues to work with the Towns and Fire Departments on various grants and projects.

Public Comment:

Francis Hodsell addressed the Board with an update on the Randolph Solar project. Mr. Hodsell stated he and his representatives for SolUnesco have been meeting with property owners connected to the Randolph Solar project. They have evaluated approximately 832 parcels, and those with a residence are being contacted. Mr. Hodsell stated approximately 26 residents have not been contacted and will be followed up with a letter. Mr. Hodsell stated environmental engineers have been on site and expect to provide an updated layout and application.

Rodney Moon addressed the Board with concerns over Chairman Walker intimidating him over flyers sent out in the County. Mr. Moon referenced the 917 signatures requesting the Randolph Solar project be placed on the ballot, the 230 signatures on a petition requesting larger setbacks, and the 120 signatures on a petition to have Supervisor Garnett removed from office. Mr. Moon also referenced the 58 letters written against the Randolph Solar project and the third-party reviewer who did not suggest moving forward with the project.

Michael Lucas addressed the Board with a request for a historic and archaeological study be done on the property for the Randolph Solar project and the findings be make public.

Motion was made by Supervisor Bailey, seconded by Supervisor Hamlett, and carried with all other members present and voting yes to reappoint Catherine Hamlett to the Social Services Board for a term of 4 years.

Motion was made by Supervisor Bailey, seconded by Supervisor Reeves, and carried with all other members present and voting yes to reappoint Myra Trent to the Board of Zoning Appeals for a term of 4 years.

Motion was made by Supervisor Shook, seconded by Supervisor Hamlett, and carried with all other members present and voting yes to reappoint Margaret Elder to the Social Services Board for a term of 4 years.

Motion was made by Supervisor Shook, seconded by Supervisor Bailey, and carried with all other members present and voting yes to reappoint Kenny Howard to the Planning Commission for a term of 4 years.

Motion was made by Supervisor Smith, seconded by Supervisor Shook, and carried with all other members present and voting yes to appoint Miller Adams to the Planning Commission for a term of 4 years, Adam Palmer to the Board of Zoning Appeals for a term of 4 years and Alex Haskins to the Social Services Board for an unexpired term thru December 31, 2024.

Motion was made by Supervisor Garnett, seconded by Supervisor Shook, and carried with all other members present and voting yes to reappoint Murrice Bates to the Industrial Development Authority Board for a term of 4 years.

Glenn Baker, Electoral Board Chair, addressed the Board with an update on the General Registrar's office. Mr. Baker stated the office has been temporarily moved to 117 LeGrande Avenue and notices have been posted on the County website and other locations. Ms. Heather Harding, Registrar in Halifax County is currently aiding along with her employee to maintain the office hours in the County. Contact information from previous staff has been removed and any access to the office and any equipment is now restricted. Mr. Baker stated the position for Registrar has been advertised and applications are being received with the intentions of filling the position by the end of January.

Patricia Berkeley, Treasurer addressed the Board with a collections update. Ms. Berkeley provided a Power Point presentation to the Board. Ms. Berkeley provided estimated figures on collections for 2021, and stated her office is continuing to work on collection of delinquent taxes. Ms. Berkeley stated 87.283% of owed taxes have been collected by the end of December. Upon completion of her presentation Ms. Berkeley entertained questions from the Board.

Brett Arbogast, Charlotte County Schools addressed the Board with a PPEA update. Mr. Arbogast reported the finalizing of the front office and nurses' station at Bacon Elementary. Roofing is still being completed and the roofing company will offer an inspection before it is signed off on. Mr. Arbogast provided updated pictures of the work being done and was available for questions from the Board.

Petrina Carter, Tri-County Community Action Agency addressed the Board with an update on their services to the County. Ms. Carter reported Tri-County Community Action was invited to apply for the Bezos Grant and were rewarded \$2.5 million dollars for 5 years. Ms. Carter stated this will be used in Charlotte and Mecklenburg Counties. Ms. Carter stated for they will be hiring a homeless counseling specialist for Charlotte County and one for Mecklenburg County. This will also allow them to hire a universal intake person to take applications for all programs. Ms. Carter stated they have staff that go out into the community along with assistance from the Sheriff's Department to get an accurate count of the homeless in the County.

Ms. Carter stated there is currently work being done with the MOA with County. Ms. Elder addressed the Board with the details and a time frame it should be completed. Ms. Carter stated their agency is currently hiring and accepting applications for full and part time positions. Ms. Carter was available for questions from the Board.

David Lipscomb, Empower Broadband addressed the Board with an update on broadband. Mr. Lipscomb stated as to date there are 68 active customers in the Southern portion of Charlotte County. Mr. Lipscomb stated on December 13th Governor Northam announced Empower had been awarded with the main applicant the Southside Planning District Commission, a \$69 million dollar matching grant. Mr. Lipscomb stated the total project cost will be \$154 million dollars including Mecklenburg, Brunswick, Halifax, and Southern Charlotte Counties. This will

enable 88.39 miles of fiber to be installed passing 401 homes and businesses. Mr. Lipscomb stated \$2.9 million dollars was received from VATI. Mr. Lipscomb anticipates the Southside Planning Commission will negotiate contracts in February and March of 2022. Empower is in the process of working to select program engineers to oversee the project by the end of the month and the goal is to have it completed within 3 years. Mr. Lipscomb was available for questions from the Board.

Monica Elder addressed the Board and provided information on the Plastic Pesticide Recycling Program. Ms. Elder stated in 2019 the Board entered into an agreement with the Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services for the Plastic Pesticide Recycling Program. The agreement was for one year but allows for three one-year renewal options. The Board has approved renewals for 2020 and 2021. Joanne Jones, Associate Extension Agent is requesting a letter of support from the Board for a third renewal for 2022.

Motion was made by Supervisor Hamlett, seconded by Supervisor Garnett, and carried with all other members present and voting yes to approve the renewal of the Plastic Pesticide Container Recycling Program and authorize staff to issue a letter of support on behalf of the Charlotte County Board of Supervisors.

Administrator’s Report

Chairman Walker stated if there were any immediate questions, Ms. Elder would be available to answer and if not, any others could be emailed to the County Administrator.

Public Comment Period

Kay Pierantoni addressed the Board and stated there are questions that need to be answered from Empower concerning the CAF II funding. Ms. Pierantoni also requested the Administrator’s report be read into the Board meeting and encouraged it be put on the website as a separate form and/or have copies available at the meetings. Ms. Pierantoni still has concerns about Tri-County Community Action not being open to serve their clients in person and when will the office in Charlotte County be opened to the public.

Motion was made by Supervisor Garnett, seconded by Supervisor Bailey, and carried with all other members present to appropriate the following:

		Expenditure	Revenue
10-2106-5811	Circuit Court-Records Preservation Grant-Deed Books	29,600.00	
10-230802	Records Preservation Grant		29,600.00
10-2106-5811	Circuit Court-Records Preservation Grant-Birth & Death Registers, Land Books, Marriage Bonds and Property Tax Books	36,620.00	
10-230802	Records Preservation Grant		36,620.00
Total		66,220.00	66,220.00

Motion was made by Supervisor Hamlett, seconded by Supervisor Garnett, and carried with all other members present and voting yes to approve the invoices for FY2022 in the amount of \$718,317.42.

Motion was made by Supervisor Bailey, seconded by Supervisor Garnett, and carried with all other members present and voting yes to issue a building permit refund in the amount of \$30.60 to April Taylor.

Motion was made by Supervisor Bailey, seconded by Supervisor Garnett, and carried with all other members present and voting yes to issue a building permit refund in the amount of \$129.74 to Noah Hertzler.

Board Member Other Comments:

Supervisor Reeves – None

Supervisor Smith- Supervisor Smith asked about the CRC Comprehensive plan if that will be a meeting that will be advertised, and citizens will be aware of.

Supervisor Bailey – Supervisor Bailey stated it is an honor and privilege to be present and looks forward to working with the citizens and Board.

Supervisor Shook – None

Supervisor Hamlett – None

Supervisor Garnett – None

Chairman Walker – Chairman Walker welcomed the new Board members.

Being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

BY:

Daniel N. Witt, Clerk

ATTEST:

Gary D. Walker, Chairman